A town where you live

THE STEW IS TASTY, BUT THE JOB SEARCH HAS BEGUN TO GO BAD...

....

chmp chmp chmp

....

Yeah, it's real tasty...

It's great...

How's the pork stew?

I haven't made it before... Did I put in too much star anise?

Huh?

Nah... Not really...

....

What's wrong? You've been acting kind of down lately...

Yeah... I failed another first round interview...

So I am, a little...

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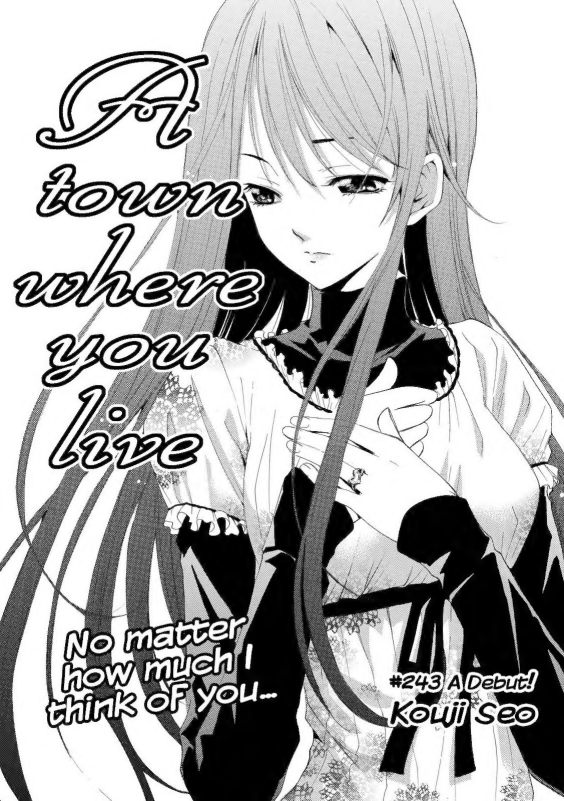
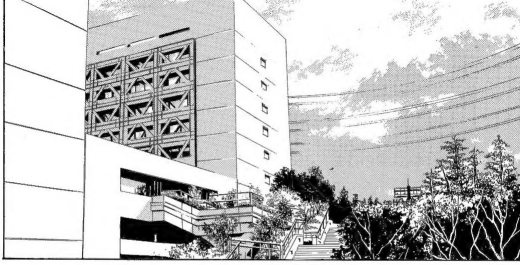

A town where you live
No matter how much I think of you...
#243 A Debut!
Kouji Seo



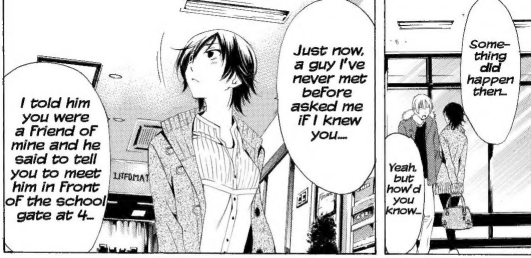
CAREER CENTER

It sure is rough...
March is over and I'm back to square one again.

Hm?
Ah... There you are.
Hi, Haruto!

Fwip

Can I talk to you for a minute?
Asu-ka.
You want some-thin'?
Well.
I know it's none of my business, but...
Did some-thing happen between you and Yuzuki-chan?
Wh...?
Wh
How did you...
...know about that, though...


I told him you were a friend of mine and he said to tell you to meet him in front of the school gate at 4...
Just now, a guy I've never met before asked me if I knew you...
Something did happen then...
Yeah, but how'd you know...

Well... I dunno from just that...
Yeah... He had glasses on.
Do you know him?
Someone you've never met?

Huh? I was all busy with my job search, that's all...
And plus, like, who's this guy?! How come he knows all that stuff?!
...Since high school.
Well, um... He said he was a friend of hers...?
He said you weren't paying attention to your girlfriend, and you were messing around with some other girl.
He seemed really mad, so I asked him what he wanted with you...

Well, it's not like she would tell you.

Yuzuki-chan must have some guy friends around too, you know.

B...But... I ain't even heard of this guy!! How could I not know about a guy like that?!

I bet he heard all that stuff from Yuzuki-chan. I mean, they must be pretty close...

...Uh.

He was reaaaally good-looking, too!

Ah... by the way...

.....

Uh... Hey...

W...Well I don't care if he's good-lookin' or not.

Anyhow he's wrong or he's misunderstood somethin'...

I was really stressed out over the job search thing, is all.

Even if I went and told Yuzuki about it, it wouldn't do anybody any good, I think...

When you have something you're worried or stressed out about...

...you always just hold it in without talking to anyone about it...

...

But when you're with someone, they can tell that you're upset, and it rubs off on them. For your girlfriend, it's really frustrating!

...I felt...

...the same way when we were dating...

...Uh

W...Well... Enough about me!

IF it's a misunderstanding, then just go explain it to that glasses guy and then go have a heart to heart with Yuzuki, okay?

A... Asu-ka...

INFORMATION

....

tap
tap

...just say it to me outright, c'mon...
IF the way I act is a pain, then...

tmp
tmp

Fwshhhhh
...I can't be-lieve...
...she went off to some other guy to talk to him about it...

...You Kiri-shima?

...Yeah.

You've been pissing me off for a long, long time...

Could you do me a big favor and just break it off with your girl-friend, please?

I've heard about you, but this is the first time we've ever met...

So, you've been messing around with another girl and calling it a job search, eh?

Look, I'm tellin' ya...

Huh?!

...!!

GRAB

...

Except I was here way before you showed up, and I've always...

Yeah, right. Just some random guy!

Give me a break!! This is between you and me!!

I got no intention of breakin' up with her... And especially not 'cause some random guy says so!!

Stop it!!

You two...

...please just stop fighting over me!!

Uh... wait...

What's going on...?

Why are you apologizing?!

You've done nothing wrong!!

I'm sorry, Kirishima-kun... I just wanted his advice, that's all, but...

....

Huh?

What are you trying to do to poor Nagoshi?!

What?! Huh?! I didn't do any of tha...

....

...you broke up with your girlfriend so you told her you wanted to date her after all...

But then, just as she got into college and finally got over you...

...then you played around with one or two other girls, and you ended up dating that Mishima chick...

You told Nagoshi you were interested and then got her into you...

And I've been in love with her for...
...so, so much longer than you have...

Wh...
But who are you, even?!

Hey, what'd you do to Nagoshi, Kirishima?
Sakamoto from class C said he's gonna beat the crap outta you!

That's enough...
Thank you, Sakamoto-kun...
But...!!
C-Sakamoto?

Hey, you messing around with Nagoshi too?
N...No way!! I'd never do somethin' like that!!

What, are you a natural-born casanova, then?
You're such a bad boy, man!

Ah...

Ahhh !!

Mine and Kirin's

The test is already under way!

Test...?

YOU'VE FAILED !!

YOU DIDN'T !!

You know, the more you hesitate...

...the more likely it is that I'm going to end up going somewhere else!

...Huh...

I was thinking...

The truth is...

I was never going out with Sakamoto-kun!

You still don't... get it?

If you try hard, you might win me over...

I might go with Sakamoto from class C, actually...

I just don't get what you're feeling Kirin-shima-kun!

And why haven't you been coming at all? If you're not interested, then just come out and say it!!

It's not like that!

I want to go when I can! I started because I do like it...

But I just started this part-time job...

And I should probably start lookin' for a real job, this year...

But if that's your reason, at least can you let me help you with it...?

Because you and I are...

That's what this is about ?!

I've connected the dots... I've finally figured out all of these mysteries !!

Na... Nagoshi!! I finally understand now!!

This has been a big misunderstanding! All the way from high school to...

BUH !!
SLAP!
Na...
That's... enough...
This is good-bye...
Na-go-shi...?

...There's always been a prince watching over me and being there for me.

I just realized...

Whirl

Let's go, Sakamoto-kun!

I guess crying made me a little hungry!

Wh... But you still...

Does that mean... Are you...

Wh...

Kirishima-kun...

....

I hate to interrupt this moment you guys're having and all, but!

I'm tellin' ya, this is all a big mie-understanding you guys're having!!

You go on ahead, Nagoshi...

I'm going to make sure to talk things out with him.

O... Okay. understand...

Don't fight with him or anything Sakamoto-kun...

I won't... Don't worry about it.

tap tap

If I just tell you the whole story, you'll get it!!

...Just listen to me, Sakamoto!!

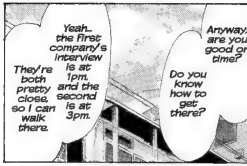
THOUGH A YEARS LONG MIS-UNDER-STAND-ING IS CLEARED UP...

...IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL GOOD AT ALLLLL !!!

...TO BE CONTINUED!!

W... Well then...

Here I go...



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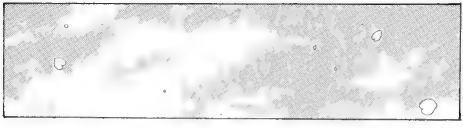
Do your best...

I will.



PFFH!!

I wonder if I didn't leave a little too early...
Eh... It's fine. I mean, bein' early's way better than bein' late.

Huh?!

Oh no! Hold on to that for a sec!

Wh.. What the-?!

Flutter

The Story So Far

Haruto is a college junior from Hiroshima who lives in Tokyo with his girlfriend Yuzuki. He's been searching for jobs, has finally made it through to the final interviews at two different companies!

Aw no! Not the river!

Ah... Let me help!!

Thank you! Thanks so much!!

H...Hey, you don't have to go that far, it's...

I'll be fine!

I got it!!

TMP

TMP

GRAB

...Wh...
SPLOOSH
ドボー
...I'm sorry.
drip
drip
It got just a little bit wet...

Ah... What's your name?!
Nah... I'm not really okay. I've gotta go. Excuse me!

But what about you, are you all right?
...Uh, thank you.
This is a very important document; you're a life-saver.

plsh
plsh

Oh my- What happened, Haruto-kun?! You're totally soaking wet!!
Doesn't matter; just dry me off, fast as you can!!
We got an iron, don't we? Where's the iron!
No, come on!!
Don't come in the house in those wet clothes!!

....

The inter-views are over.
Due to the fact that you were not present, you are no longer eligible for the job.
...Um.
So, nothing can be done, then?
There was a reason that I didn't make it...
Even so...
...this is our policy.
...I fig-ured as much.
Er...
I'm terribly sorry about that...
No matter the reason, I'm at fault for being late...

It's you...
...the guy from just a bit ago?
Oh, hey...
Yes... He was set to come in for a final interview today...
...but he was late, so we've declined to hire him...
Oh really, you were trying to get a job at our company, then!
Well, I'm terribly sorry!
You must have been late because you fell into the river helping me out!
Pres-ident...
Do you know this young man?
Pres-ident?!
Yes, He really helped me out just a is bit ago... some-thing the matter?
Huh?! Oh, no, not at all!!
I went and did that all on my own...
No, no, I can't possibly let it stand like this!
...All right!

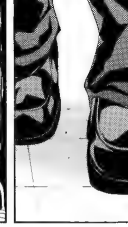
If ever you're shopping at our store, just show them my business card!

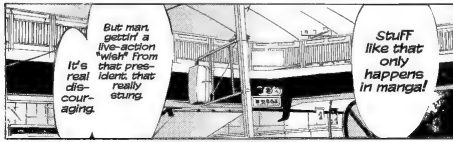
They'll let you have it half-price or less, I'm sure of it!!

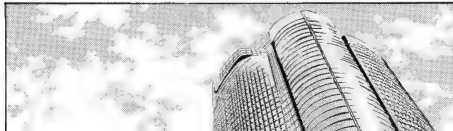
Thinkin' in that split-second after he showed up, "I helped the company president; maybe he'll hire me...!"

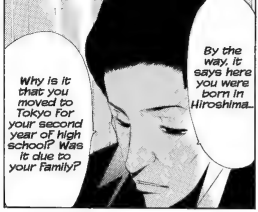
Ahh...

I'm such a waste of space...








Why is it that you moved to Tokyo for your second year of high school? Was it due to your family?
By the way, it says here you were born in Hiroshima...

We under-stand why you wish to work here...
I see...

I had a long-distance relationship, and my girl-friend lost touch with me... I got worried.
...The truth is...

Please do not lie to us.
Well, er...
That is...

B... But !!
So she told you that, and still...
Yes... That's what she said to me...
Well that must have just been because she fell for some-one else, and wanted to break up with you...

Huh?! You went so far as to transfer for that reason ?!
Ah...!! I just went to meet with her, or to check on her at first! But she didn't meet with me...

I just couldn't believe what she said!
She's not the kind of girl who would do that to me...

If something was wrong, I definitely wanted to save her.

And that's why...

....

....

Well then... What was the actual reason?

Um... Well, she really did have a new boy-friend.

B...But in the end we got to-gether and we're dating now!!

So many things have happened to us, but I'm truly happy!!

...it seems to me that you essentially stalked her...
Until you could begin to date your girlfriend...

So... In a word, you stalked her, didn't you?
Huh?

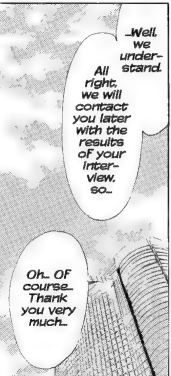
I don't feel like I was just hovering around until she was free to date, or...
N...
No... that's not...

GRAB
I told them I wanted to be a chef, so I wanted to go to Tokyo as soon as possible to start my training...
Everyone around me was really against it, though...

Well, then? What did you tell your parents to persuade them to let you go?
Um... well...

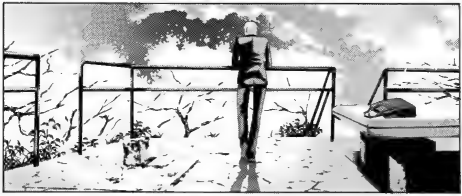
No... I do love cooking, but at that time it was mostly just a pretext...
Naturally they were against it...
Did you really have plans to become a chef, then?

I'm tellin' ya. I never stalked 'er at all!
...in order to be able to stalk your girlfriend.
So you're saying that you told a lie...


...Well, we understand.
All right, we will contact you later with the results of your interview, so...
Oh... Of course... Thank you very much...

A... At any rate, I'll work as hard as I can for ya. For real! So please keep me in mind when you're hirin'!
If you wanna know if I got the drive, I'm tellin' you, I got tons!!

山公園



.....

There's no way I'm gonna get hired.
I couldn't say anything that didn't make me seem like a stalker and a liar...

Maybe if I'd spent my time worryin' about myself instead of runnin' around bein' a hero...
...I'd already have a job right now...
NNNNNNN
NNNNN
Hm?
Oh... Um.
Hey...
You had a long day, huh, Haruto-kun!
You're all done aren't you?
Yuzuki Eba
Uh... Well...
Yeah, just a bit ago...
I'll be comin' home in just a little bit, so...
Oh... Well, in that case...

Can I look at the sakura blossoms with you?

...Hm?

It really is beautiful here...

I love this place.

...How did you...

You were so late coming home...

...I wondered if you might not have come up here...

You're pretty good...

.....

KA TMP
This is Tamura from the Sanguri HR Department...
Is this Haruto Kirishima's cellular phone?
Ah... Yes! This is Kirishima!! Thank you for earlier !!
Err.
I have the results of your final interview...
Congratulations and welcome aboard.
We have decided to hire you.
Wh-?
H-... Hired ?!
-!
But... How...
I did nothing but talk about all sorts of weird things...
Well, I thought I'd heard your name somewhere, but it wasn't until you spoke in a Hiroshima accent that I remembered where.

You reminded me of my recklessly spent younger days. It was terribly nostalgic!

The truth is that I was there, too.

A little while ago, you saved a girl in a karaoke room and gave the guy with her a piece of your mind, right...?

Y... Yes, sir. I won't say a word.

Sorry, please make as if we've never talked about this!!

Ah...!! But don't tell anyone I told you that, of course!!

Anyway, here at our company we need guys like you, who have the drive it takes to follow a girl all the way to Tokyo!

Well, then, make sure you treat her right!

I'm sure that the girl was happy as well, once she figured out what was going on!

She seemed to be against leaving, but you just blew right through and made sure she got out of the entire situation!

O...Oh, thank you very much, sir...

Yes… Yes… Thank you very much.
Ah… Under-stood.
Then I'll be going now…

....

FSH
Yu-zuki !!
I… I…
Um…

Con-gratu-lations. Haruto-kun…
Ah !

...
...You really...
...did it...

Let's hope this simple step forward is a great leap towards the best possible future for these two...
Yeah...
....
Thanks...
TO BE CONTINUED!!

I know, where you live
If I looked into the depths of your heart, would I find myself there...?
#244 Progress!
Kouji Seo

clatter.

clatter

I can't believe we're finally going on a trip together. For the first time, just the two of us...

Mmhmm... You passed your teaching exam and all...

And I'm done with my Formal Job offer ceremony.

A town where you live

A long-awaited dream trip together!! Don't run too wild!!

But y'know, For all that whining you did about how you didn't think you'd pass, you got through it real easy.

H... Hey, I was really worried about the whole thing!

And plus, I wasn't whining about it!

....

Hm... Well...

Well then?

Have you decided which you'd rather see?

To-shogu shrine or Edo Won-der-land?

What should we do? I can't de-cide!

Let's just do both!

WOOOO-

We won't make it in time to check in at the ryokan if we go to both.

Aw mannn!! You're so mean!!

I'm not bein' mean!!

*A ryokan is a traditional Japanese-style inn.

A town where you live

Kouji Seo

#245 Forever and ever

The story so far

Haruto is a college senior from Hiroshima who lives in Tokyo with his girlfriend Yuzuki. Both of them have now decided on their courses of their future careers, and they can finally take a deep breath and relax!

That is all you need to know about your room.

Thank you...

Ah... All right...

Kachk

Well then, if you have any issues, please dial 9 on your telephone and contact us at the front desk.

There are yukata in the closet for you and your wife to wear if you would like.

I... It's just 'cos you're wearing a ring on your left hand ring finger, that's all.

Did you hear that? They called me your wife!

They think we're a married couple. Haruto-kuuun!

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to an existing person, place, or thing is purely coincidental.

You're in a real good mood, aren't ya?

Ohhh! There's a pond in the garden. Haruto-kun!

Let's go see it!

SHFT

It doesn't really matter which finger I wear it on, does it?

It's fine with me, I guess.

Ah... There are koi in this pond!

Oh wow, wow! There are so many of them!

Sorry, guys... I don't have food right now.

Wh...

Don't get too excited or you'll fall in the pond.

SPLOOSH

They're very cute!

Hey, hey, come look with me, Haruto!

....
Ah ha ha ha ha!
I Fell in!
"Ah ha ha" nothin'!
You're still doin' this as a college stu-
What?

Hee hee hee...

You really checked this place out, didn't ya...

There's a family bath we can reserve, you know.

Then come along with me, Haruto-kun!

Anyhow, since you're already completely soaked, why don't you head on down to the baths?

Nah... It's nothin'.

When I fell into the pond.

...Ah.

By the way, what were you thinking about just now?

Oh, I was just remembering the first day you came to our place...

You fell in the pond right after showing up, right?

Hm?

The maple leaves are so beautiful...

They're the floral emblem for Hiroshima, right?

Yep.

You sure know a lot, huh.

All I could think was, "Man, this girl is sure gonna be a pain"...
SPLOOSH
Whaa? That's so mean !!
...Ah
I remember something too
Remember that was the same day you thought I wasn't wearing panties and freaked out...
EWSH...
W... Well you just said you needed to go to the convenience store to get panties... What was I supposed to think...
It's so nostalgic...
I can't believe it's been nearly seven years since then
I had no idea that a day like this would come back then...
Me neither

I mean, there's no way I could have thought of a day when I'd see you with no panties on...

...much less feast my eyes on your stark naked body.

.....

Jeez, you perv !!

Look the other way !!

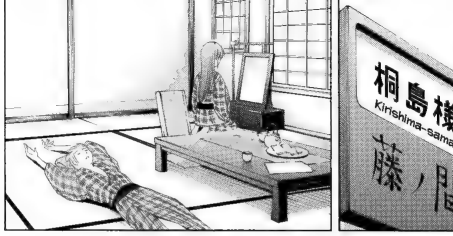
SPLASH

Glup !!

Stop !! It got in my nose !!

Ah ha ha ha !

That's what you get!


桐島様
Kirishima-sama

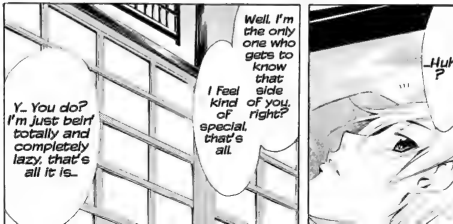
It feels super good....
Ahhhh... It's been such a long time since I got t'just lay down on some tatami mats....

Ain't nothin' wrong with bein' relaxed on your vacation, is there...?
Well, that's true...

...heh heh.
This is the first time I've seen you lay around so relaxed.

You don't really show that side of yourself to people much...
Of course not!
No way I'm gonna act like this in front of anyone but you.

...makes me really happy.
...That kind of...


Y... You do? I'm just bein' totally and completely lazy, that's all it is...
I feel kind of special, that's all.
Well, I'm the only one who gets to know that side of you, right?
...Huh?

Then it's okay for me to go ahead and fart in front of you, then?

N... Not something like that!!

Besides, it's not like something like that could ever come out of you, Haruto-kun!

Of course I know!!

Like you would know?

But that's great, though!

Oh, yeah?

But...

We're not gonna be able to lay around like this for very long, will we?

...Huh?

....

After the new year, we'll be working adults.

We'll probably get real busy...

...Even so, that doesn't mean we'll be unhappy.

Well, I guess so...

....

But I feel like I'm finally starting to catch up with them a little bit now.
Akari got a job before I did... And Takashi's already gone and had a kid.

Huh?
Well... Some-day, I mean.
Do you want to have a child, Haruto-kun?
With me...

I really got a respon-sibility, y'know!
And plus, I'm the first son of the Kiri-shima Family...

Of course I been chinkin' about it... especially since I saw Takashi's kid.
Huhh... Is that so...?
I didn't think you really thought about stuff like that...

Uh... Well, that's only if it's a boy, of course...

Well, I liked what you said about the name back then... You know, the last character from my name and the last one from yours to make "Daiki."

...

And then maybe it would be nice if the second kid was a girl...

And then... Maybe we could move out of downtown and get a bigger place, like a condo...

Wh...

Your vision of the future...

...I'm so glad that it includes me...

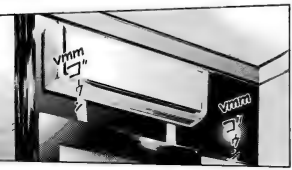
...forever and ever, no matter what happens...

I want you to be with me...

Well, of course, I mean...

....

....
Yeah...


vnm
vnm

splish

...Hm?
...Hey.
Haru-to-kun.

You, too... Please stay with me for-ever.
Because I... I just...
I love you. For real...

Why don't we...
...make a baby...

.....
Wh...
Or what-ever! It's just a joke, a joke!
If we had a kid right now, it really would make it tough for me.
....
I... I think it would be all right...?
Wh... What do you mean?
I... It's just... Even if we had a kid now, I would really do my best.
I mean, I think if we had one now, I'd be able to work even harder...
W... Wait! No way, Haruto-kun!!
What's with that face?!
Well, I mean I have to find a job, you know? And my dad would definitely be mad if we had a kid right now...
Uh...
Y... Yeah, you're right...
Sorry...
....
And well... I mean...

I feel like once I started, I wouldn't be able to stop...

Because I really want... to have your children.

So cute...

....

DON'T GET IMPATIENT, HARUTO!

MAKE SURE TO MAKE A PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE!!

YUZUKI!!

N...! Wait, Haruto-kun, just...

Ah... oh...

Uh...

Um...!

Oh, Jeez...

WRAP IT UP!!

SLAP

Guh!!

...TO BE CONTINUED!!

I'M AIMING RIGHT FOR THE BULLS-EYE OF YOUR HEART
TO SHOOT IT WITH A BULLET OF LOVE
A town where you live
Kouji Seo
#246 The Distance Between The Two

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to an existing person, place, or thing is purely coincidental.

IF I wasn't, d'you think I would have rented that apart-ment?

IF I got told I had to go to Osaka after I spent all that money, I'd freak.

You're... working at the Tokyo office, right?

Hm?

Yeah...

But I was ready to move to Osaka or Kyushu or somethin' if I had to, y'know?

Kiyomi even told me she'd come along. IF I had to move.

The story so far:

Haruto is a college senior from Hi-roshima who lives in Tokyo with his girlfriend Yuzuki. Though he's finally secured a job, March brings all-new troubles to worry about!

....

...Ah.

....

Yuzuki-chan's teaching in a Tokyo school...!

Oh wait, what're you two gonna do if you get assigned outside Tokyo...?

That's what I've been so stressed out about all day today...

Depending on where they send me, I might have to go back to being in a long-distance relationship again!

They told me they'd be calling with the schedule sometime in the middle of this week...

Before they do assignments or anything, they have to have all of the people who got offers come to a meeting...

But hey, worryin' about it now's not gonna help nothin'!

Th...

That's pretty fast...

There's still a month before you start work, after all...

Have you talked to Yuzuki about all this?

Nah... Neither of us has brought it up at all.

I guess you could say we're delaying the inevitable?

Oh... I see...

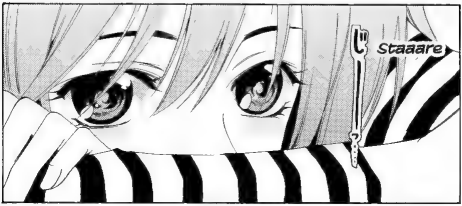
You're always such a baby when it comes to stuff like this...

I know it!! Somehow I just know it!

Well... You don't know that yet...

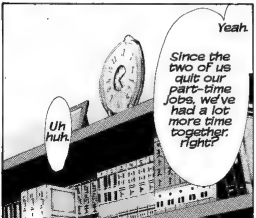
I really wanted to work here, too!!

Ahhhh! This is the worst! They're totally gonna send me to a branch!!


Staaare

Happy?
...?

I'm just happy, that's all!
Wh...What is it? You been staarin' at me for a while...


Uh huh.
Yeah.
Since the two of us quit our part-time jobs, we've had a lot more time together, right?

We couldn't hold on to those part-time jobs forever...
Well... after next month we're going to be full time employees.
rustle
Hm?
...That's true.
Our college days sure went by in a flash, didn't they?
What's all that stuff for school?
Nope. Fliers for open apartments.
I had some time so I went around to a few real estate offices and got some of them.
Uh...?

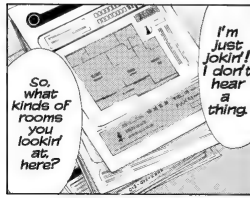
Well, you know...
....

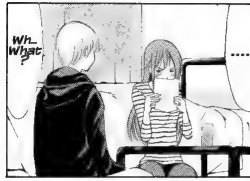
Why'd you do that?
H... How come...

It's not fair for me to be the only one who works so close, so I thought maybe we could move somewhere between both our jobs.
The school I'll be at is in Ochanomizu...
And your company is in Hachiouji, right?

I thought it might be nice to look for a place that's just a little bit bigger.
Since I came here to live with you kind of suddenly...
Uh huh.
Ah... Oh.

....


So, what kinds of rooms you lookin' at, here?
I'm just jokin'! I don't hear a thing.


Wh-What?
....

I told ya, I don't hear nothin'!!
Are you sure you don't hear anything.

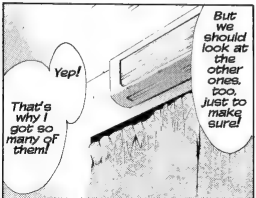
Yeah... That would be nice! We've been livin' in such a cramped place for so long. I start to get all nervous when you go to the bathroom.
Wai- You're not hearing anything, are you!
From time to time.
OH NO!!

The living room is really large for the price.
Ah... What about this place?

Oh. OK.
C'mon, just show me the Fliers!

This is my favorite one!
I know!
Oh... That's nice.
Plus, there's a convenience store and a shopping arcade nearby!

We sure could.
...Uh huh.


That's why I got so many of them!
Yep!
But we should look at the other ones, too, just to make sure!

Together.
I was thinking we could go shopping for dinner on the way home from work, if we lived here.

Oh!
This one's nice, too! There's a lot of storage space and it's pretty close to the train station.
...Hm...

And plus, the toilet is really far from the main rooms, so you'd have nothin' to worry about.

...I just-
Aw... Sorry, it's just a joke.
Don't make that face...

....

....

....

Fshhhhhh

...!

Wh... What?!

?!

GRAB

Ah...

We can't sleep in this single bed forever, can we? It's so small.

Creak

Th... That's right! We've gotta buy a bed!

Huh?

Let's buy a bigger bed!

...Well, you know...
Tap-

Hm?
...But I like it this way!
I like the single bed.

It makes it so that you and I can be so close...
Close enough to touch shoulders, like this.

You know... It seems like Chisa-chan is out.
Huh?

I want things to stay like this forever.
squeeze
I want to be with Yuzuki...

...Oh, is that it.
I don't want to leave...

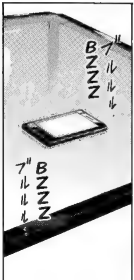
So today, I think I want it...

...just a little bit rough...

...I got ya.

FWUMP
shiver
Ah!
Hey, Haruto-kun.
Mm?
....
Um... well...

I love you!!



ブルルル…
BZZZZZ
ブルルル…
BZZZZZ

....

And...
Next is Kiri-shima-kun
squeak

You will be assigned to our office in Kochi prefecture.
Starting in April...
We're counting on you.
Do your best.
HE'S NOW BEEN INFORMED OF REALITY...
Yes, sir.
BUT THE TWO OF THEM WILL BE FINE, RIGHT?! RIGHT?!
...TO BE CONTINUED!!

The Story So Far

Haruto is a college senior from Hiroshima who lives in Tokyo with his girlfriend Yuzuki. He's finally graduated from college, and is now starting his new life.

西常大学卒業式

Seijou University Graduation Ceremony

A town where you live

We got through our campus life the best we could!!

Ahhh, I guess we all finally did it. We've all graduated.

So much has happened...

That's true... You and Akari both got married!

And I've become a popular manga artist!

Oh, right. I saw you got the cover again this month.

Wow!

Nanami-chan, you and Fujikawa-san got jobs at the same company, I see!

We sure did!

You've got a year left, Hoshina, so give the job search your best.

Oh, I'm fine! After I graduate, I'm going to get married to my betrothed.

Be... Be trothed?!

Wait a sec, wait just a sec, does that mean you're from a well-to-do family or something?!

Oh, who cares about that, let's take a picture!

Who knows when we'll be able to all get together like this again?

It's a shame that Yuzuki-chan went to a different college!

But hey, what about this betrothed?

Just leave it be, Kiri-shima-san...

A town where you live

#247 Three and a Half Years

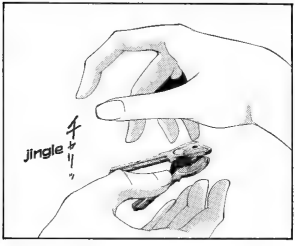
Kouji Seo

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to an existing person, place, or thing is purely coincidental.

Work hard. Kiri-shima-kun!
Uh huh.
Yeah, just have a safe trip home.
You too. Be well, Kanzaki.

I'm a little busy, y'know.
...Sorry about that, man.

Thanks for keeping the place so clean.
Yes, thank you much.


jingle チャリッ

Thank you. For letting us stay here.
Oh, no...

Waaah! I'm so saad!!

Just after I get to move in here, you leave !!

..Chi-sa-chan.

I'm gonna come to see you!!

When I go to Osaka for con-certs, I'm gonna take a side-trip!!

Oh. Okay. I'll be wait-ing.

So send your farewells to the edge of oblivion !!

My dream will never sleep, and to keep it alive, I'll la... la la la la la!!

+26 ROOM

What the ?!

Huh ?

....

...She's making a fuss up to the bitter end.

She really is.

Ah.

Then, let's go...

Sorry, can you lend the keys back to me one morn-ing time?

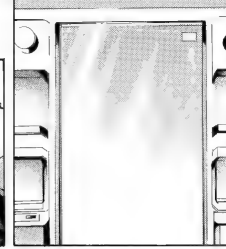
I Forgot some-thing!

Hm? Ah, yes, yes.

Hey, Haruto-kun, what did you forget?

+ KACHK

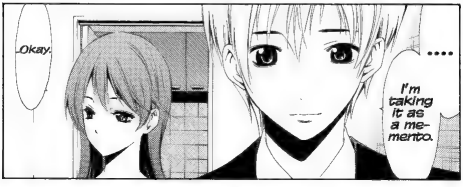
...This.



I stuck a Print Club sticker on it
Look at the wash-basin mirror!

...Ah.

Oh, it's fine! I'm not the one who'll get in trouble, after all.
I'm done with you. You know there's a rental agreement and still you do this?


...Okay.
....
I'm taking it as a memento.

...Yeah.
キ"
Creak...
I just want to give it one more real good look.

Three and a half years huh...?
We spent most of our college days here, didn't we...
...We did.

カ"
チャ
kachk

Haruto-kuuuun, I closed the curtain!

I had a fight with my father...

...and I ran away from home.

Then stay here for-ever!!

Welcome home! Hope you had a good day at work!

Imp Imp

Wow, you're in real high spirits!!

Wow, this is what we do at the end of the day, Hope you don't mind, I'm hungry.

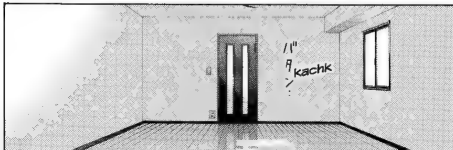
Well, all the hard work is done, so we can get a good rest.

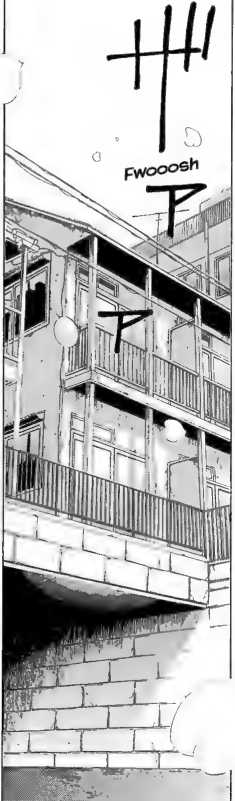
This is your home!!

A lot of things have been gambled... But you and I are together now.
I think that just being hurt with you and being able to fall asleep with our hands entwined is enough happiness for me...
Crack
Being hurt before
know.
Sorry, really. The place I can relax, rest, is home.
Sorry, really. The place I can relax, rest, is home.
Because that is the way I have been sleeping with Haruto-kun.
You want to sleep in without being hurt in the dark.
The really hard thing for me...
...is just being apart from you, Haruto-kun.
Let's do it again.
...

It's time to go.
....

Yeah...
....


パタン…
kachk


Fwooosh

So now you and Rin-chan are gonna be livin' together again.

Yep. Itsuki has been living in company housing since last year and Rin is getting lonely in that big place.

She's a real lonely heart, that kid.

I think she'll be happier with you there.

Yeah... She looked really happy.

She smiled, even though she did say I would be a pain to have around.

She's never been very honest with her feelings.

She didn't even come to say goodbye.

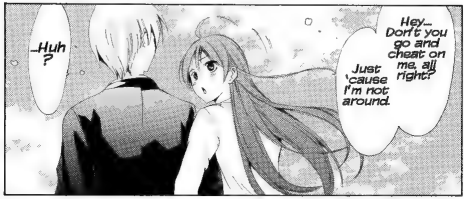
hehe... She just didn't want you to see her sad, Haruto-kun

I'm out.

It's just annoying, so I'm not going.

....

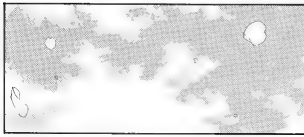
She's so not honest with her feelings. For real.
She said that...
But she said it while she was crying a little bit.


...Huh?
Hey... Don't you go and cheat on me, all right? Just 'cause I'm not around.

I... IF you're that worried, come and check on me!!
I wonder...
I only ever think about you, though!!
Really?? Because you're going to be very popular...

Like I'd do something crappy like that!

That's right... When I get my first paycheck, maybe I'll come visit you.
I have Saturday and Sunday off.



Hm...

I'll come see you, too...
And every year, when it gets to be spring, we'll come back here and look at the cherry blossoms.

Whaaat? Making a promise like that, you'll definitely break it, won't you!
Of course not. I'll take a day off or whatever I have to. Just to come see you!

....
Okay... Then I'll be waiting.
When it becomes spring, I'll come and see the cherry blossoms here with you.

...You know, even if it's not spring...
...I'm gonna come back here whenever I start to miss you, y'know...

....

...Well then...
...I guess we'll never be lonely, will we...?

Vooom ゴォォォォ

I THINK THAT THE TWO OF US...
SENDING
...ARE GONNA BE JUST FINE.

THOUGH WE'LL BE APART FOR A LITTLE WHILE...

OUR FEELINGS CAN CROSS A MUCH, MUCH LONGER DISTANCE THAN OUR TWO HANDS CAN REACH.

A town where you live
SUNGREE The PHENIX BEER
Real Life Chapter Start!!
The Story So Far
Haruto, who has come to the end of his job search, was offered a job at a company that makes drinks, and took it. Now that he's become a working man, he thought his peaceful life with Yuzuki would continue, but... Then he's told that he's assigned to Kochi Prefecture!
Ah... Thanks for your hard work. Have some tea.
Pardon me! I'm done putting out the product.
Hmm...
No thank you. I have other work, so I'm heading out.
I'll be coming back again next week. See you then.
Yontoko
tap

A New Chapter!!!

A town where you live

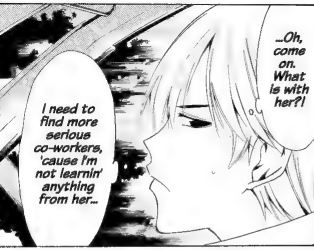
Haruto has landed in this new world of Kochi. He's started his life as a new hire at his company. Not to mention he's life as a long-distance boyfriend to his girlfriend Yuzuki, who is still in Tokyo. What lies in store for him now?

#248 A Good Product

Kouji Seo

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to an existing person, place, or thing is purely coincidental.

Uh huh...
Thank you...
I'll give you that much.
You ain't a bad driver, Kiri-shima-kun.


I need to find more serious co-workers, 'cause I'm not learnin' anything from her...
...Oh, come on. What is with her?!

Okay, I'm gonna take a li'l nap.
Wake me up when we get there.

Are you kid-ding?
Go 'round the block one more time, will ya!
Whaa... Too fast.
We're already there, Adachi-san.

Oh, well... Yamaguchi Supermarket, huh?
...All right, then.
POP
Woah, what are you doing?
Our new product ain't been sellin' too well at this store, y'know?
So you unbutton your shirt? I don't get...
Hello again, everyone...
We're here from Sungree.
woosh
...Ah.
Can I have a word with you?
Why, yes.
Have you had any trouble with the product?

Your new stuff ain't sellin' at all, so what're we gonna do about that?!

Have you had any trouble? Really?

You been sayin' it's okay so I even went to the trouble of addin' shelves to stock it!

By the way, I've always thought your beer was watery and tasted like crap!!

....

Um... With all due respect, this product has been in development at our firm for three years, and is our-

Shut it!

We don't need to hear from you.

But...!

What are you sayin'?

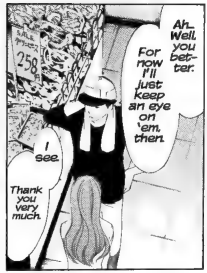
You tryin' to say it's my fault it won't sell?!

....

Uh.

I am terribly sorry about the issues you are having.
Next time, we will provide you with the best possible product, and I hope it will meet your standards.
SUNGR

....
Well then, Kirishima-kun, if you could help stock.


Ah... Well, you better. For now I'll just keep an eye on 'em then.
I see.
Thank you very much.

What are you makin' that face for? Go get it done!
I will.

That old man's a perv, so...

...that's really the only way to get to him.

....

It's just infuriating, that's all. I don't like being talked to that way.

I think it's a really tasty beer, too!

Plus the package design's real good!

SUNGREE

What? You still mad at me?

You're more stubborn than I gave ya credit for.

With you being how you are, Adachi-san...

...why didn't you come back at him a little bit?

He was mocking our company's product.

That kinda stuff does nobody any good.

Hm?

...giving him a peek at my cleavage could actually make us some money.

As opposed to your useless little strategy...

It doesn't really solve the fundamental issue, as far as I'm concerned!

Yes, but you didn't tell him about our product and how good it is, at all.

Hm...?

Ah... sure.

Hey, you mind stop-pin' up here?

....

Yo.
You have one too, Kiri-shi-ma-kun.
I don't need any. More-over, I'm the one driving.
Any-way, what are we stop-ping here for?
I want to go home, you know...
Psssh
gulp ゴクッ
gulp ゴクッ
....
Um...
I just like lookin' at the sunset while I drink a beer, y'know.
Tink コンッ
Huh...?

Hey, Kirishima-kun, do you like manga?

Huh... Uh... Sure, it's okay.

I like it all right too, and I read it sometimes.

Um...

What are we talking about?

But, wouldn't ya know it... When somethin' new comes out and I like it...

...for some reason it always ends up gettin' cancelled.

I bet the creators probably came into it takin' it real serious and tryin' their dammiest to get it up and runnin'.

And there're probably some of 'em who saw it as their last chance to make it...

Uh...

No matter how hard they worked, even if it's their last chance, it don't matter.
If nobody wants it, it's gone.
...
But if the readers think it's boring, then it's just another boring manga.
SUNGREE

...It...
...seems that's true.
It's frustrating and makes me go a little crazy every single time.
Every week, every time, my story comes in last place by a mile in the rankings.

Don't matter how hard you try to explain to 'em...
...It can't change the fact that the product just won't sell.
If they don't like it, they're gonna keep on not likin' it.
...is pretty much the same as that...
In the end, I think what we do...

SUNGREE
春味
It starts bein' a good product when it starts to sell.
Just 'cause you worked real hard on somethin' doesn't automatically make it a good product.

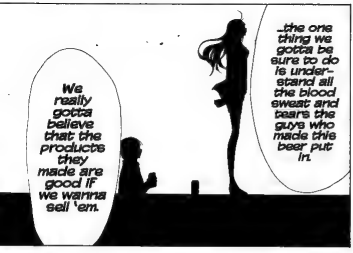
....
It ain't about what we personally think about it, y'know?

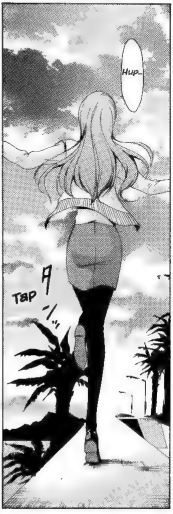
....
You're right about that...
Yeah.
SUNGR
GRIP

...
I'm sorry for all this...

Man, just lookin' at your hang-dog face is makin' this good beer taste bad.
We're pretty close to my place, so I'm just gonna walk home.
You go take the car back.

...Ah.
But you know...


...the one thing we gotta be sure to do is understand all the blood sweat and tears the guys who made this beer put in.
We really gotta believe that the products they made are good IF we wanna sell 'em.


Hup...
Tap

...
So...

...Ah.

...I kinda took a shine to ya.

I like guys like you, Kiri-shima-kun.

....
I feel like I already under-stood, but still... This is how work really is...
Amaya's been fightin' through this world all this time, too...
It's because I love it.
I can't imagine myself doing anything else with my life.
...Won-der if...
...I'll get to thinkin' that way someday.
...Ah !!
Dammit... I drank some...!!
BNNNNNN
BNNN
Yuzuki Eba

How is it, Haru-to-kun?

Have you managed to get a bit more used to your work yet?

...Yeah

I'm doin' fine.

I'm workin' hard.

Hm?

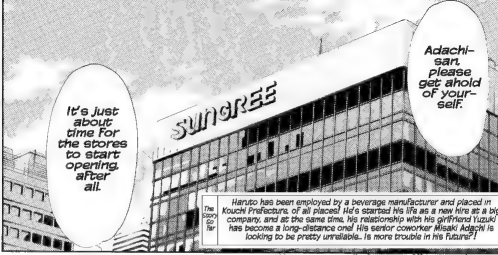
Ah... No, it's all good. I got time, so don't even worry about it.

I gotta stay here for a little while, so let's talk to our hearts' content.

...TO BE CONTINUED!!

THOUGH THEY MAY BE FAR APART, THEIR HEARTS WILL ALWAYS BE CONNECTED TO ONE ANOTHER.

Let Misaki Adachi show you the ropes of polite society!
A town where you live
#249 Goal? - Kouji Seo



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Hmm... Yeah. Sorry, but it looks like you're gonna have to go it alone today.

....

You know every-thing you need to know, right?

Huh...

Well...

Misaki-chan, how many bars did you crawl last night?

Four...

I was an idiot for thinking for even one second that she was a serious person...

SUNGREE

...Bye

I'm taking off, then.

SUNGREE

Ahhh... Jeez wait a minute... I'm comin', I'm comin'!

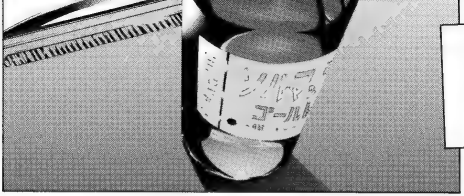
Clatter

A...Are you really okay, Misaki-chan?

But we're gonna stop on the way for some hang-over medicine...

Okay, I get it!

SUNGREE



Are you allowed to call me from school at this time of day?
Hey, that re-minds me...

Well... I'm not really supposed to... but I'm on my own lunch break, too.
I'm up on the roof, and nobody else is up here.

...And any-way...

Yeah...
I'm on my lunch break right now.
Yep. I'm havin' lunch while I look at the ocean.
My super-visor's sleepin' off a real bad hangover in the car...

I just had to hear your voice...

...NO MATTER WHAT.

...Well... Y'know... I feel the same way...

REALLY?

Uh huh...

DO YOU WANT TO SEE ME?

OF course I do.

FOR REAL?!

Yeah... I'm free Saturday and Sunday this week, so...

THEN... WHAT IF I COME TO SEE YOU?

DOES THAT WORK FOR YOU?

Yeah, it totally works!! I don't have any plans, either. Even if I did, I'd make an excuse!!

HEE HEE... THANK YOU.

Wh...?

Su

Well Then...
We'll be able to be together for the first time in a while...

Uh huh.

サングリー社員寮
Sungree Employee Housing

All right, then.
I think this is about as clean as it needs to be for Yuzuki to visit.

Only three more days 'til I get to see Yuzuki...!!
Ohhh maaan!! I can't wait!!
...Ah
Having one box ready should be good enough right...?
rustle
rustle
I mean, there's no way we could use 'em all up in just two days...
....
Hmm... But it has been half a month...
Super Sup
lubricated
潤ゥゼリー
Maybe I'll buy another box, just in case. Always better to be prepared, right?
Ding Dong
?!
W... Who's here at this hour?!
Stomp
Stomp
...Yes?

Good Evenin'! Here we are, your work-place host-esses!!

Come on, Misaki-chan, you'll bother the neighbors if you make all that noise...

...Uh.

The heck is-

Sorry, were drinking together for a bit...

and Masaki-chan suddenly said she wanted to cheer you up.

Hey, I got some Tosa-tsuru sake!! It's reeeally goood!!

Uh... That's cool, but can you go home now?

You wanna see her but you can't see her easily, right...? It's so saaad...

Right? You were talkin' to your girlfriend back in Tokyo...

Hey!

C'mon, s'fine!

I know what you were up to during lunch break, huh! All whisperin' into your phone...

Hey, even if I had the money, I wouldn't use it to pay for a "companion!"

Of course not! I know that, of course!!

You want someone to talk with, but you don't have the money to pay for a pro...

So you're just sittin' at home and thinkin' about all that all alone... You'll get sick, you know?

And so that's why the two of us came here for you! We're so nice! ♥

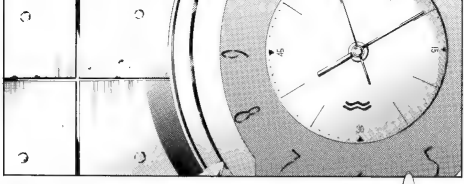
Oh whatever, just sit down.

We're gonna drink until the sun comes up!!

What are you sayin'? It's a work night!!

I gotta drink even more of this sake 'cause I'm afraid of goin' to work!!

I'm soooo sorry. Kiri-shima-kun!!



She must be very tired...

I'm really sorry about all this, Kiri-shima-kun.

She was the one makin' such a big deal about drinkin' 'til dawn, and then she falls asleep?

Plus, it's only eight... That's way too early.

I mean, I'm sure it's pretty tough for you to get dragged around by Adachi-san like that.
You don't really have anything to apologize for, Yamasaki-san.
Huh...
How's that drunken bum a serious person?
Hm?
Well...
There isn't anyone at our company who knows how our products are selling better than she does.
Oh no... Compared to Misaki-chan, I'm way less serious...
She goes around to all the bars and stores in the area...

Yamaguchi Supermarket, huh? Our new product ain't been sellin' too well at this store, y'know?
Uh... yeah. I can kinda tell...

...She's not just going around drinking, you know?
Hm

She goes back to the places she put stock out at, to see how it's going.
If it's not selling, she suggests improvements...

Huh... Actually, that must be why she knew that our stuff wasn't sellin' yesterday...
Before we even went into the store.

She wastes her weekends, too... I think it's really dumb.
I don't know why she does it. It's not like she gets paid overtime for it.

Adachi-san really does... ...all that...?
....

FWUMP
Yeah, she's been with him since college.
It's been about Four years since she got the job, and they've been apart the whole time.
O... Oh, really...? Four years, wow.

She's like a Freak for work. You know, a workaholic.
I feel bad for her boyfriend back in Osaka.
Huh?! She's in a long-distance relationship!

Huh... Adachi-san had that kind of phase, too?
I guess you're a little like Misaki-chan from back in the day, doing stuff like that...
SUNGREE
春
SUNGREE
春

Nah... Well... I didn't really say it like that...
Ah... That's right. I heard you got in the face of a guy at a super-market. You said, "Don't talk crap about our pro-ducts!" right?

But the shop-keeper was pretty nasty himself...
Everyone at work was really pleased more than anything... about how Misaki-chan felt about them.

価 超特価 超特価 超特
It was way, way worse. She got mad and went so crazy that the branch manager had to issue an apology...
W... Wow that sounds nuts...

The hell you mean by sayin' it's crap?! You come back to headquarters and try sayin' it to their faces!!
You try to make this juice! Do you know how much pain the people who created this went through?!

Maybe the person I should be trying to be more like at this company...
....
Wow... She didn't tell me about that. She even knew I thought she was a waste...
...should be her, after all.
By the by, Kiri-shima-kun...
...Hey.
Huh? Ah... Yeah. I'm really not that tired.
You look a little tired yourself. Are you all right?

SHFF

Don't worry about being shy, all right?

Huh?! What are you doing, Yama-saki-san?!

He- Are you drunk ?!

I'm 27 years old. I can't get drunk on beer any-more.

Isn't it obvious? I'm giving you a massage. This is where the tension really builds up-

You're young, after all... ♥

Please stop! I have a girl-friend !!

What does that matter? This is just a massage.

IF I rub your shoul-ders it feels good, and if I rub you here, it feels good too.

IF I rub on your shoulders is that really cheating?

The hell kind of reas-oning is that ?!

Do you really want her to see us like this?!

Anyway, what if Adachi-san wakes up?!

It's a real thrill, isn't it?

Doesn't it just get your motor running?

NO IT DOES NOT !!

Sh... She..

She was supposed to be the serious one, but she's a hot mess!!

...massage do you prefer...?

Come on, now, let me know...

?!

THUNK

..What kind of...

Wh...

What are you doing, Haruto...?

Never-mind what I'm doin' here !!

You got a girl-friend, so what are you doing with two women in your room ?!

THUD

Ah... Could you be Kirishima-kun's girl-friend? I'm just giving your boy-friend a little massa-

I,It's not what it looks like !!

Just go home, you two !!

THUD

A-su-ka !!

What are you doin' here ?

AT A TIME LIKE THIS, HIS EX BUSTS IN!!

IT'S PAN-DEMO-NIUM...!

(GULP!)

...TO BE CONTINUED!!

A town where you live
Kouji Seo
#250 The Whys of Love
DITCH THE SUIT, ONCE IN A WHILE!

The story so far

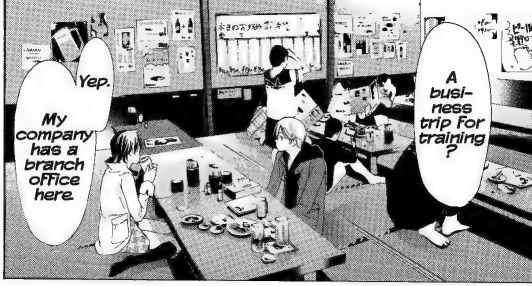
Haruto has been employed by a beverage manufacturer and placed in Kochi Prefecture, of all places! He's now in a long distance relationship with his girlfriend Yuzuki, who is still in Tokyo. His ex-girlfriend Asuka has suddenly appeared at his apartment in Employee Housing. But Why?

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to an existing person, place, or thing is purely coincidental.

Uh...
Ah...
Hm...
Right up until you said, "Let's break up."
I believed you weren't cheating on me with Yuzuki in Hiroshima, didn't I?

I've finally gotten the chance to come to Kochi, so take me somewhere with tasty food.
Anyway, it's still early, so let's go get something to eat.
O-kay...
....
Hm...?

Murmur
Murmur


A business trip for training?
Yep.
My company has a branch office here.

Well, then, should you even be doin' this?
Goin' off on your own for free time?
It's fine. Everyone else is already off screwing around anyway.

...Well all right, then.
But, man, you surprised me.
I thought maybe somethin' happened, with you showin' up at my place outta nowhere.

Training starts tomorrow, but...
...the four new hires had to show up today.

...Uh
...Nah, not really.
I just wanted to come by and see you, Haruto.

Quit being weird...
Why are you blushing?

Anyway, this tataki bonito is super tasty!
And I feel like the beer tastes better than usual, too!
Huh?

Hanging out at the hotel all alone was just boring. That's why I came.
I- I'm not!! You jerk!!

Ah...
Is that so?
It's one of the new products from my company!!
Oh yeah, this beer's real good, y'know!

So, how's your job...?
Have you gotten used to it yet?
....

Wh...!
If you say whatever comes to mind, even if you shouldn't, of course they'll get mad.
It's probably because you say too much.

Nah... They keep getting mad at me...
And I keep getting into fights with the clients.

You think you can just honestly say whatever you're thinking, don't you?
That kind of thing doesn't really fly after you get out of school.

Listen to me !!

Excuse me, can I have another pint of draft beer, please!

BAM

B.. But my super-visor compli-mented me on that!

She said that was one of my good points...

Huh?

Oh, Yeah?

It's because your com-pany's beer is just so good, Haruto!

Besides, aren't you drinkin' too fast?! You have training tomor-row, you need to slow down!!

Listen to me !!

Excuse me? Can I add some grilled turban shells to that order, please?!

BAM

It took more than 3 years to come up with the original Formula for this be-

Well, you see...

Wow! It's so beautiful! So that's Kochi Castle, then.
Hey, c'mon, let's go home...
I got work tomorrow.
Aww, but it's still so early! Let's go to Aren't another place! any like bars around here?
Come on... You got to go to training tomorrow, don't you?
....

Well, I only joined the company in order to make software...

...but then, even though I get along with people, all I do is waste everyone's time... I'm just a crappy employee.

No matter how tough things are, you always work hard and have a smile on your face.
If he...
You worry about other people's problems way before everyone else...
It's not somethin' just anybody could do!

Even now, I can't do anything like that.
I've never thought of you as no good, not at all!

Even if you're lying, that makes me happy.
You really are super nice, Haruto.
It ain't a lie!
I really feel that way about you!
Hee hee... Thank you.
I feel a little better now!

Any-way, more Impor-tantly.
....
Well, then...
...that's good.
How are you getting used to things?
I told ya, they just keep gettin' mad at me...
Not with your job...
...with your long-distance relationship.
...!

Eh... It's okay I guess.
Oh, that... Well.
...I mean, we call and text every day, but it's still really lonely...
I ain't used to it or nothin', but...

Uh...
Ask what...?
I can ask you now, can't I?
So, it's been three and a half years...

So, what was it...
...that you loved so much about Yuzuki-chan that you had to break up with me...?

....
Wh... Where'd that come from...?
Nowhere really... I was just kind of wondering about it.
How do I put it...
I guess it's that...
SKFF...
Whenever she has to do something she doesn't want to, or things get tough, she always hides it and puts a smile on her face.
Well, that way...
...you had a lot of time to talk to Nanami-chan, didn't you?
But my responsibility is to support my friend, now...
I am very sorry...
Even if you go back to Tokyo...
She always puts herself aside and thinks of other people first, and puts her all into helping them out...
I don't think we should see each other any more.
Those are the parts of her that really make me love her, I think...
Um, wait a minute...

....
Ah.

Huh?
Aren't those are the same reasons you gave for liking me?!

Uh, well...
Kind of the same things? You mean exactly the same things!!
I dated both of you, so it ain't like it's that weird I liked kind of the same things about both of you...
Well... I mean...

I think that's enough.
C'mon, we don't need to talk about this.

Is it possible I was wrong about that?
Hey, I thought there were some really important differences between me and Yuzuki, and that's why you broke up with me...

Stumble

Huhhh.
The heck?
Answer my question.

....

Hm?
Just...
Answer one question.

Ah...!
H...Hey, be careful.

...If I...
...when you broke up with me...

If I'd just said I didn't want to break up and cried and tried to stop you...

...would you have chosen me instead...?

....

Wha...

...No.
Even then...
I think I woulda chosen Yuzuki...

....
You really say whatever you want and expect people to be okay with it...
I... I don't really expect you to be okay with it, though...
TMP
What-ever!
I understand why you feel the way you do, Haruto.
A-su-ka...

...but based on appearances. That makes you the lowest, worst kind of man! I'm glad we broke up!!
Basically, you made your choice not because of what's inside...
How do you figure?!
Huh !?
HARUTO... TRY NOT TO GET INTO ALL OF THIS WITH YUZUKI, ALL RIGHT?
Well, it's obvious, isn't it? If there's no difference in our personalities...
Oh... was it based on our breasts? I have a smaller chest, so you dumped me, then?
Of course not!! Even if I cared, you guys are basically the same size in that department!!
Oh, now that's a lie!! You felt mine up before and you said they were smaller!!
Wh...
You got drunk and totally felt me up!
...TO BE CONTINUED!!

A town where you live

Who's Haruto waiting for, on this particular weekend day...?

The story so far

Haruto has been employed by a beverage manufacturer and placed in Kochi Prefecture, of all places! He's now in a long distance relationship with his girlfriend Yuzuki, who is still in Tokyo.

Kouji Seo

#251 Why I Love You!!

A town where you live

Yuzu-ki!

Why, what-why?! Haruto-kuuun!!
Excuse me, miss, that area is for Quo card holders only.

What are you doin' huh?
Eh hee hee.

Hyh?
THE HEART IS BEATING UP
CLUNK

....
I'm here...

...You are...

You eat yet?
Yeah, I had a little something on the Shin-Kansen.
All right.

So, what was it...

...that you loved so much about Yuzuki-chan that you had to break up with me...?

Even with callin' 'n textin' every day...

...seeing her for the first time in a while is... nice.

....

...I guess I really don't know.

Both Asuka and Yuzuki are pretty much just as cute as one another.

I guess Yuzuki's got just a little on Asuka in the breast department...

But that's not why I fell in love with her...

...

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Wowy, that's the statue of Ryoma Sakamoto, isn't it?

It's so huge!

I thought since you're a Classics teacher now, you'd like this.

Um...

It doesn't really have much to do with the classics, though.

Ah... Is that so?

B-But I'm happy! Ryoma-san really is such a cool guy, gosh darnit!

FshFshhh

I'm so glad I came, gosh darn-it!

...You're gonna get people from Kochi mad at you, if you keep just fakin' an accent like that.

No, no...
I'm fine. I think I've had enough fun for now.

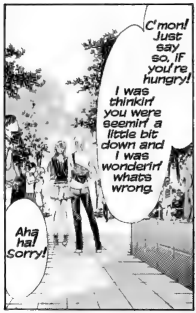
Huh?
Oh, there's a museum, too. You wanna go check it out?
It's real close by.

Oh, really?
Ah...

What should we do?
Hm... Let's see...

She doesn't really seem to be all that into this... Could she be...?
...Hey, wait.

There's still the aquarium and the Tosa Inu Center left!
And plus, there's a place you can see whales from...


C'mon! Just say so, if you're hungry!
I was thinkin' you were seemin' a little bit down and I was wondering whats wrong.
Aha ha! Sorry!

I'm sorry.
I guess I really am a little bit hungry right now.

Hmmm... Let's see now...
What kinda places are open at this time of day?
Um...
Um I kind of...

....
Sure.

Oh, that's right, there we are!
Usually it's pretty crowded, but we should be okay at this time of day!
Yuzuki, how do you feel about sashimi and stuff, does that work?

Thank you!
It was really tasty!

Yep, yep, fish caught close to the ocean like this is best.
It was kinda ordinary, but the bonito was really fresh, wasn't it?
...It was.
It was really delicious.

....

LITTLE HEART IS BRACED

....

Did I do something weird or wrong?
M... Man... She really is lookin' down, isn't she.
What's the matter with her, for real...?

The weather's nice today, so I bet the moon will look super beautiful, don't you think...?
That place is supposed to be real good to watch the moon, from!

Huh...?
That's enough, already...

Ah... That's right!
D'you wanna go back to Katsurahama one more time?!
Hm...?

That's enough of all of this stuff, really...

Let's go back to your place!

This is like the kind of thing we do when we're on vacation, just the two of us... We go out and do a lot of different things, right...?

Like the ocean and aquar-iums and parks and stuff...

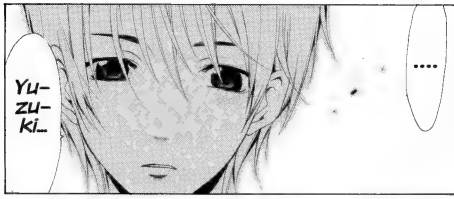
And I really have fun with you, no matter where we go.

I want you to hold me so tight that I'll be okay even when we can't see each other again for a while...

As tight as you can...

I want you to pay attention to me, Haruto-kun!

I want you to hold me tight...


....
Yu-zu-ki...

I guess if you love someone, the reason you love them...
...no matter what you say it is, it's nothin' but some-thin' you thought up after the fact...

Then why didn't you just say so, already...
SHF!!!
I just-

The real rea-son is more com-plex,
but still very sim-ple.

No...
...!
...maybe there's no real need for a reason at all...

I'm so em-bar-ras-sed!
Hey, Hari-to-kun!

Jeez, they're really goin' at it, right in the city.
Ew!
Oh my god. look at them.

I couldn't wait even one more second to do that, that's all...
Well I just couldn't help it, you know...

Uh... About what?
What do I do now...?

Jeez...

Now I just can't...

...stand it any longer, because of all that.

THIS TIME AND DISTANCE HAS ONLY MADE THE LOVE THE TWO OF THEM SHARE STRONGER. ♥

Um... Then...

....

I really think that me falling in love with Yuzuki...

...was a done deal, right from the very start.

Um. Do you want to take a bath or something? We might be sweaty...

I'm not sweaty!

...O-kay.

You wanna go... back to my place?

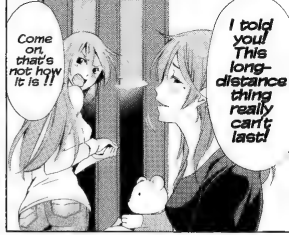
Yeah!

Let's go!

...TO BE CONTINUED!!

The story so far:

Haruto has been employed by a beverage manufac-turer and placed in Kochi Prefec-ture, of all places! He's now in a long distance relation-ship with his girl-friend Yuzuki, who is still in Tokyo.



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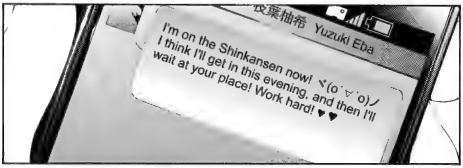
A town where you live

Kouji Seo

#252 Long Distance Relationship

BZZZZ
BZZZZ


夜葉抽希 Yuzuki Eba
I'm on the Shinkansen now! ヾ(o´∀`o)ノ I think I'll get in this evening, and then I'll wait at your place! Work hard! ♥♥

Then I'll come to you!
My school always has the weekends off, you know.

I feel kinda...
...like a jerk.

Huh?
TMP.
You're working hard.

So I really gotta get this all done by this evening!!
But I get to see Yuzuki this week!
tappity
tappity

No, I can't.
My girlfriend is coming today, so I have to get this done before the evening.
You mean the one in Tokyo?
Yes.

If you work too hard at it, you'll wear yourself out, you know?
Wanna take a break with some of our newest product?

Please be quiet.
tap
tap
....

TINK

You sure are trying hard, you and Misaki-chan both.
Though there's no way you can make a long-distance relationship work.

It's not a business day today.
It's just you and me here, all alone.

Hey-Hey, Kirishima-kun.
I said hey!
glare
What is it, jeez!

Yama-saki-san.

If you're done working, you should go home.

tap

tap

Having sex in a place like this...

...it's so thrilling, like it's taboo.

....

Well, then maybe I'll do a little bit of sampling...

Huh? Not like you haven't already drunk a bunch of beers.

I'm going to sample this ♥

HEY!

chk

chk

SUNGREE
Aw, come on, you're so boring!
Quit bothering me, please! I'm very busy right now, y'know!!

Dammit... It just doesn't end.
....

dirring
dorring
birrig
borrig

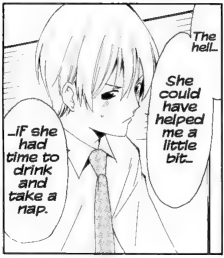
Whew, what a Anyway, good I'm going nap... home. You wouldn't play with me after all, Kiri-shima-kun.
...Ah.

...Um.
This work can't really wait 'til Monday morning, huh...?
Hmm?

Are you saying you're going to send materials made by a newbie...
...to the meeting without having them checked over first?
No...
Sor-ry...

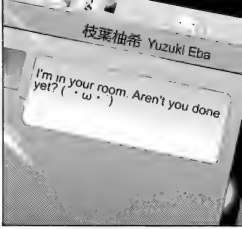
Don't cut corners just because you want to see your girl-friend.
When you're sure you're done with it, email it over to me so I can check it.
...Yes.

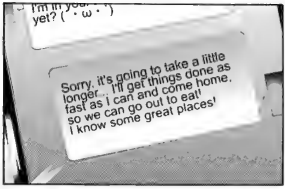
ブルルル...
BZZZ
ブルルル...
BZZZ


The hell...
She could have helped me a little bit...
...if she had time to drink and take a nap.

tok
tok
tok

....


枝栗柚希 Yuzuki Eda
I'm in your room. Aren't you done yet? (・ω・)


I'm in your room. Aren't you done yet? (・ω・)
Sorry, it's going to take a little longer... I'll get things done as fast as I can and come home, so we can go out to eat! I know some great places!

....

I'm just sayin' I need a little bit more time...

No... It's just...

S... SORRY... YOU CAN JUST GO TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE AND GET A BOX LUNCH AND EAT BEFORE ME, OKAY?

IF you don't hurry, every-place will close!

But it's already 8 PM!

I thought I would be done! Why else would I say it?!

THEN DON'T TELL ME YOU'LL BE DONE IN THE EVENING!!

I GOT MY HOPES UP!

I can't help it. it's work!!

WHAT?! THEN WHY'D I EVEN BOTHER COMING AT ALL?!

....

FINE... WHATEVER, THEN.
Hey, Yuzu-

This long-distance thing really can't last!
I told you!

ズッ
SHF

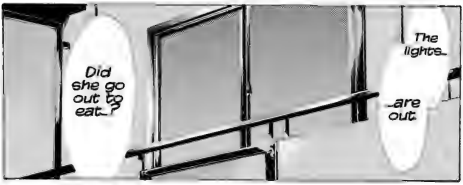
....

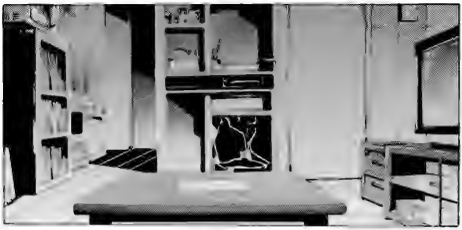
パタン
CLICK

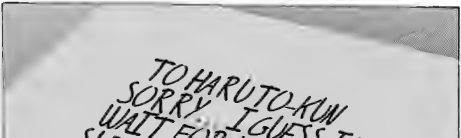
Aw, man, it's already 10.
I wonder if Yuzuki's mad...
BRRR-ING
BRRR-ING
YOU'VE REACHED THE DIGITAL MESSAGE SERVICE CENTER.
Wh-
....
Fine... Whatever, then.
When I get home, I'm gonna have somethin' to say to her!!
You're the one who said you were comin' all on your own!
How'd I end up bein' the bad guy here, anyhow?!
枝葉柚希

...Huh?

ングリー社員寮
Sungree Employee Housing


Did she go out to eat...?
The lights...
...are out.




TO HARUTO-KUN
SORRY... I GUESS

ガチャ…
KACHK
パチッ
Click
…Hm?
What's this…
…a letter?
…!

TO HARUTO-KUN

SORRY... I GUESS I WAS TOO TIRED TO WAIT FOR YOU, SO I WENT TO SLEEP. I MADE GOYA STIR FRY FOR DINNER, JUST HEAT IT UP, OKAY? YOU WORKED SO HARD. ♡

....
Yu-zu-ki...
Hey...
....
Um...
Oh...
Daddy's home, look, Daiki.
Say welcome home to daddy....

HUG!

I'M HOME!

WH!!

...you can make a long-distance relationship work.

Though there's no way...

IN OUR CASE, THAT JUST AIN'T TRUE.

And, I'm sorry!

Wh?! Huh, wha?!

Ah... Welcome home!

SOMEHOW THAT SLEEPY LITTLE SMILE ON YUZUKI'S FACE...

...PROVED THAT TO ME, IN SOME MYSTERIOUS WAY.